

Kenda Benoît

Born in Mons on May 8th, 1968.

Belgian

Married, 3 childrens

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Professional Experience

- 2005-*to date*: Associate Director, Medicinal Chemistry; UCB Pharma
- 2003-2005: Group Leader, Medicinal Chemistry; UCB Pharma
- 1998-2003: Team Leader, Medicinal Chemistry; UCB Pharma
- 1999-*to date*: Research Project Leader in the therapeutic areas of the CNS (epilepsy, Parkinson disease and cognitive disorders)

Skills

- Skilled and experienced synthetic chemist.
- Experienced medicinal chemist with significant contributions into a variety of preclinical programs from hit identification stage up to late preclinical development
- 8 years experience as Project Leader in the field of neurology and psychiatry (5 new chemical entities send to development).
- Lead a group of 20 experienced medicinal chemists (PhD's and graduates), directing scientific chemical strategy (hit ID, Hit-to-Lead, Lead optimization, candidate selection & profiling phases) of various projects.
- Responsible for the chemical part of the project portfolio management in the CNS centre of excellence (setting the milestones, checking the progress and challenging the chemistry project teams),
- Responsible for defining and implementing the long term strategy in the medicinal chemistry department,
- Management of external collaborations with academic groups (synthetic & medicinal chemistry) and CRO's
- Project submissions to public funding authorities.
- Provide scientific advice and opinion to senior management.
- Excellent knowledge of *in vitro* & *in vivo* pharmacology, DMPK and safety.
- Experience in managing skilled personnel. Responsible for setting objectives, performance appraisals and career development of direct reports. Provide mentorship to ensure effective development of their scientific and managerial skills.
- Professionally trained in people management, situational leadership and project leadership including conflict management, team effectiveness, negotiation, presentation & communication skills, assertivity,
- Good skills for showing strong leadership during changes in an organization.
- Experience in personnel recruitment (PhD level) by organizing selection interviews.

Academic Record

- 1996-1998: **Post-doc in organic synthesis and supra-molecular chemistry** « Synthesis of new biomimetic of the steroids receptors» ETH Zürich, (Prof. F. Diederich).
- 1995-1996: **Post-doc in natural product synthesis** «New approaches toward the synthesis of Himbacine ». Gent University, (Prof. P Declercq).
- 1990-1995: **Ph.D. Thesis (Summa cum Laude)** «Studies in intramolecular carbolithiation of C-C double bond by benzyl lithium derivatives: Applications to the synthesis of arylcycloalkanes». Facultés Universitaires N.-D. de la Paix, Namur, March 27th 1998 (Prof. Alain Krief).
- 1986-1990: **B. Sc. (Magna Laude)** « Synthesis and reactivity of α -thiobenzyl lithium derivatives ». Facultés Universitaires N.-D. de la Paix, Namur (Prof. Alain Krief).

Awards

- 1999: "Scientist of the Year", UCB Pharma.

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Trainings

- Principle of supramolecular chemistry (ETH, Pr. Diederich)
- Courses in Drug Design at the Royal Danish School of Pharmacy (Pr. Krosgaard-Laarsen ; Copenhagen, 2001).
- Courses in Drug Design at the ULLA summer school (courses in pharmacology, pharmacokinetic, natural products in drug research, basis of genomics ; London, 2001).
- A basic introduction to GMP (scientific update, 2001)
- Project management course (PW&C, Brussels, 1999)
- People management skills (2000)
- Situationnal leadership (2002)
- Strategical Management of R&D portfolio (Comundi, Paris, 2006)
- Project leadership training, an introduction to Belbin profiles (Amersham, 2007)
- Leadership in change (UCB-Brussels, 2007)

Languages

- French : mother tongue
- English : fluent
- Dutch : good knowledge
- German : basic knowlegde

Fellowships

- 1996-1998: Research Associate Fellowship from *ETH Zürich*.
- 1995-1996: Research Associate Fellowship from *RUG*
- 1994-1995: Fellowship from the *Facultés Universitaires N.-D. de la Paix, Namur*.
- 1990-1994: Ph.D. Fellowship from the *Fonds pour la formation à la recherche dans l'industrie et dans l'agriculture (F.R.I.A.)*.

Professional Societies Membership

- 1990-to date: Belgian Royal Chemical Society (SRC)

Scientific Activities

- *Referee for* : Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry.
- Member of the organizing committee of the SRC medicinal chemistry symposium and in the scientific organizing committee of the medicinal chemistry section of SRC

Scientific Articles & Published Poster Abstracts

1. Original reaction of γ, δ dithio arylalkanes with butyllithiums. Krief, A.; Kenda, B.; Barbeaux, P. *Tetrahedron Letters* **1991**, 32, 2509.
2. Unusual cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides. Krief, A.; Kenda, B.; Barbeaux, P.; Guittet, E. *Tetrahedron* **1994**, 50, 7177.
3. Stereoselective Synthesis of 1,2-dialkyl-1-phenyl-cyclopentane by Intramolecular Carbolithiation of Vinylsulfides. Krief, A.; Kenda, B.; Remacle, B. *Tetrahedron Letters* **1995**, 36, 7917.
4. Stereoselective Synthesis of 1,2-dialkyl-1-phenyl-cyclopentane involving an Intramolecular Carbolithiation of α -thioalkene. Krief, A.; Kenda, B.; Remacle, B. *Tetrahedron* **1996**, 52, 7435.
5. Stereoselective Synthesis of 1,2-dialkyl-1-phenyl-cyclopentane involving an Intramolecular Carbolithiation of olefin. Krief, A.; Kenda, B.; Maertens, C. Remacle, B. *Tetrahedron* **1996**, 52, 7465.
6. Synthesis of Dendritic-Cyclophanes (Dendrophanes) : Development of highly specific receptors. Mattei, S.; Wallimann, P.; Habicher, T.; Kenda, B.; F. Diederich *Chimia* **1997**.

7. Dendrophanes : Water-Soluble Dendritic Cyclophanes as Model for Buried Recognition Sites in Globular Protein. Mattei, S.; Wallimann, P.; Kenda, B.; Amrein, W.; Diederich, F. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1997**, 80, 2391-2417.
8. Synthetic Studies towards Himbacine. Kenda, B.; Hofman, S.; De Clercq, P.J. , DeBaecke, G. *Synthesis* 1998, 478.
9. Supramolecular Aggregates of Dendritic Cyclophanes (dendrophanes) threaded on Molecular Rods with Steroidal Termini. Diederich, F.; Kenda, B. *Angew. Chemie Int. Ed* 1998, 37, 3154.
10. Kenda, Benoit M., Matagne, Alain C., Talaga, Patrice E., Pasau, Patrick M., Differding, Edmond, Lallemand, Benedicte I., Frycia, Anne M., Moureau, Florence G., Klitgaard, Henrik V., Gillard, Michel R., Fuks, Bruno, and Michel, Philippe Discovery of 4-Substituted Pyrrolidone Butanamides As New Agents With Significant Antiepileptic Activity. *J. Med. Chem* **2004**, 47, 530-549.
11. Matagne, A.; Margineanu, D.; Laberty, Y.; De Ryck, M.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P. and Klitgaard, H.: "ucb 34714: A new pyrrolidone with significant activity in preclinical models mimicking epilepsy, neuropathic pain and essential tremors in man in Bialer, M. et al. Progress Report on new antiepileptic drugs: A summary of the Seventh Eilat Conference (Eilat VII). *Epilepsy research* **2004**, 61, 19-20.
12. Margineanu, D.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative: comparison with levetiracetam in hippocampal slices epilepsy models in vitro. *Epilepsia* **2003**, 44(S9), 260.
13. Margineanu, D.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative: inhibits epileptiform activity in hippocampal slices. *Epilepsia* **2003**, 44(S8), 181.
14. Matagne, A.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative: suppresses seizures and epileptogenesis in animal models of chronic epilepsy. *Epilepsia* **2003**, 44(S8), 53.
15. Lamberty, Y.; Ardid, D.; Eschaliere, A.; Alloui, A.; Matagne, A.; Kenda, B. Michel, P. and Klitgaard, H.: A new pyrrolidone derivative ucb 34714 is effective in neuropathic pain models in rats: comparison with gabapentin. *The Journal of Pain* **2003**, 4(S1), 53.
16. De Ryck, M.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: Contrasting effects of ucb 34714 and drugs for essential tremors on harmaline-induced elicited versus spontaneous tremors and sedation in rats. *Movement Disorders*. **2004**, 19 (S9), S443.
17. "SV2A protein is a broad spectrum anticonvulsant target: functional correlation between protein binding and seizure protection in models of both partial and generalized epilepsy" R. Kaminski, A. Matagne, K. Leclercq, M. Gillard, Ph. Michel, B. Kenda, P. Talaga and H. Klitgaard submitted to *Neuropharmacology*.

Patents

1. Differding, E.; Kenda, B.; Lallemand, B.; Matagne, A.; Michel, P.; Pasau, P.; Talaga, P. Preparation of 2-oxo-1-pyrrolidine derivatives and their anticonvulsant activity., Patent Application n°2001-EP1992.
2. Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Quere, L. Preparation of N-alkylated GABA compounds for use as medicaments., Patent Application n°2001-EP13162.
3. Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Quesnel, Y. Preparation of oxopyrrolidinylmethylimidazoles as levetiracetam binding site LBS/SV2 ligands., Patent Application n°2004-EP13516.
4. Kenda, B.; Quesnel, Y.; Ates, A.; Michel, P.; Turet, L.; Mercier, J. Preparation of 2-pyrrolidinone derivatives and their use as anticonvulsants., Patent Application n°2006-EP5199.
5. Kenda, B.; Quesnel, Y.; Ates, A.; Michel, P.; Turet, L.; Mercier, J. Preparation of 2-pyrrolidinone derivatives and their use as anticonvulsants., Patent Application n°2006-EP5200.
6. Kenda, B.; Starck, J.-P. Indolone derivatives, processes for preparing them, and their uses, particularly in the treatment of Parkinson's disease., Patent Application n°2005-EP7668.
7. Kenda, B.; Michel, P. 2-Oxopiperidinyl- and 2-oxoazepanylalkanoic acid derivatives for the treatment of epilepsy and other neurological disorders., Patent Application n°2002-EP5503.

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8. Moureau, F.; Kenda, B.; Driessens, F.; Quere, L. Preparation of xanthine derivatives as pharmaceuticals., Patent Application n°2006-EP11501.
9. Starck, J.-P.; Kenda, B. Benzoxazolone derivatives, processes for preparing them, and their pharmaceutical compositions and uses in the treatment of movement disorders, particularly Parkinson's disease., Patent Application n°2005-EP5596.
10. Starck, J.-P.; Kenda, B. Preparation of indolone-acetamide derivatives, processes for preparing them and their uses., Patent Application n°2004-EP2691.
11. Priority application filed in 2008 on new CNS active compounds
12. Priority application filed in 2008 on new CNS active compounds

Posters

1. 7e European Symposium in Organic Chemistry in Namur (Belgium) in July **1991**.
Title: New Synthesis of α -thiobenzylolithiums.
2. Contact group of the FNRS at DeHaan (Belgium) in November 1991
Title: Unusual cyclization of ω -alkenyl benzylolithium compounds.
3. 4th Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium in Leuven (Belgium) in May **1992**
Title: Synthesis of functionalized arylcycloalkanes via anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides.
4. Journées de la division de Chimie Organique de la Société Chimique de France" at Palaiseau (France) in September **1992**
Oral and Poster communication: Synthesis of functionalized arylcycloalkanes via anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides.
5. Contact group of the FNRS at DeHaan (Belgium) in November **1992**
Title: Anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides.
6. 8th European Symposium in Organic Chemistry in Sitges (Spain) in September **1993**.
Title: Synthesis of functionalized arylcycloalkanes via anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides.
7. Contact group of the FNRS at DeHaan (Belgium) in December **1993**
Title: Anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides.
8. 5th Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium (Namur, Belgium) in **1994**
Title : Intramolecular carbolithiation of vinylsulfides.
9. 6th Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium (Gent, Belgium) in **1996**
Title: Intramolecular carbolithiation of vinylsulfides
10. 6th Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium (Gent, Belgium) in **1996**
Title: Synthetic studies towards the total synthesis of Himbacine
11. Eurochem Conference of the Burgenstock (Lucerne, Suisse) in **1997**
Poster : Synthesis of Steroid-binding Dendritic-Cyclophanes (Dendrophanes) : Development of highly specific steroid receptors.
12. Archen, L.; Differding, E.; Evrard, Y.; Frycia, A.; Fuks, B.; Gillard, M.; Gotteaux, C.; Kenda, B.; Klitgaard, H.; Lallemand, B.; Matagne, A.; Michel, P.; Pasau, P.; Perl, F.; Talaga, P.; Van Thuyne, M. : SYNTHESIS OF NEWER KEPPRATM ANALOGS : Promising anti-epileptic agents at the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Chemistry of Belgium (Louvain La Neuve, **2002**).
13. Matagne, A. Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative, reveals potent activity in invitro and in vivo models of epilepsy. SFN, **2003**.
14. Lamberty, Y.; Ardid, D.; Eschaliere, A.; Alloui, A.; Segal, J.; Matagne, A.; Kenda, B. Michel, P. and Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative is effective in two models of human neuropathy: Comparison with gabapentin. SFN, **2003**.
15. De Ryck, M.; Kenda, B.; Michel, P.; Klitgaard, H.: ucb 34714, a new pyrrolidone derivative antagonizes harmaline induced tremors in rats; comparison to drugs for essential tremors and antiepileptic drugs. SFN, **2003**.
16. Genicot, C., Fuks, B., Christophe, B., Grimee, R., Berton, O., Dassel, D., Matagne, A., Guyaux, M., Waegemans, T., Kenda, B., and Lamberty, Y. Ucb 46331, a New Nutative Antidepressant Agent: Pharmacological Properties in Vitro and in Vivo. ACS Meeting, Spring 2006, MEDI-149.
17. B. Kenda, J. Mercier et al. "Exploration of indolone acetamides: discovery of novel SV2A ligands with improved potency towards seizure suppression" International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry - ASMC 2007 - August 27-31, St Petersburg.
18. "SV2A protein is a broad spectrum anticonvulsant target: functional correlation between protein binding and seizure protection in models of partial and generalized epilepsy" R. Kaminski, A. Matagne, K. Leclercq, M. Gillard, P. Michel, B. Kenda, P. Talaga and H. Klitgaard (for poster presentation at the AES in December 2007)

Oral Communications & Lectures

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1. Kenda, B. Synthesis of functionalized arylcycloalkanes via anionic and cationic cyclization of ω -alkenylbenzylselenides at Journées de la division de Chimie Organique de la Société Chimique de France" at Palaiseau (France, Sept. **1992**).
2. Kenda, B. Discovery of ucb 34714 : a New Pyrrolidone Derivative with Antiepileptic and Potential Antiepileptogenic Properties. Annual Meeting of the Dutch Royal Chemical Society, Medicinal Chemistry Section (Oss, March **2003**)
3. Kenda, B. Discovery of ucb 34714 : A new pyrrolidone derivative with antiepileptic properties. Seminar given at UCL (Woluwe, Oct. **2003**)
4. Kenda, B. Discovery of ucb 34714 : A new pyrrolidone derivative with antiepileptic properties. EFMC meeting (Copenhagen, Aug. **2004**)
5. Kenda, B. Discovery of ucb 34714 : A new pyrrolidone derivative with antiepileptic properties. EFMC meeting (Copenhagen, Aug. **2004**)
6. P. Michel, B. Kenda Discovery of ucb 44212 : a New Pyrrolidone Derivative with Potent Antiepileptic Properties and High Tolerability in Rodent Models of Epilepsy. at the annual meeting of the Royal Chemical Society of Belgium, Medicinal Chemistry Section (Gent, Nov. **2005**).
7. Kenda, B. Discovery of Brivaracetam : a New Pyrrolidone Derivative with Antiepileptic Properties. SMR conference (London, Dec. **2005**).
8. Kenda, B., Matagne, A., Talaga, P., and Michel, P. Discovery of Seletacetam: A New Pyrrolidone Derivative With Potent Antiepileptic Properties and High Tolerability in Rodent Models of Epilepsy. National ACS meeting, Spring **2006**, MEDI-200.
9. Kenda, B. "From medicinal chemistry to new targets and new drugs. Discovery of novel antiepileptic drug candidates" written by B. Kenda (JMMC, June 17-21, **2007** - Portoroz, Slovenia)
10. Kenda, B. "From Medicinal Chemistry to New Targets and New Drugs. Discovery of New Antiepileptic drug candidates" written by Benoît Kenda. "Journées Franco-Belges de Pharmacochimie" (Namur - May 10, **2007**).
11. Kenda, B. "From Medicinal Chemistry to New Targets and New Drugs. Discovery of New Antiepileptic drug candidates" Benoît Kenda. "RICT" (Lille - July 6, **2007**).

Hobbies

- My Children, MountainBike, Horse riding.